Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MADRID 02754 031625Z

43
ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 SAM-01 SP-01

DRC-01 /051 W
---------- 023169
P R 031526Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8789
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T MADRID 2754

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, PO
SUBJ: GOS CONCERN RE: DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL

REF: MADRID 2671

1. IN PRIVATE LUNCHEON CONVERSATION MAY 2, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS TOLD DCM THAT (A) GOS WAS FOLLOWING EVENTS IN PORTUGAL WITH CONCERN; (B) THE SPANISH DESIRED THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATION WITH THE US ON THESE EVENTS; (C) THE MFA BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR WESTERN COUNTRIES TO MANIFEST THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME; BUT THAT (D) THERE WAS A DIVISION OF OPINION WITHIN THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT ON THE IMPLICATIONS
OF THE EVENTS IN PORTUGAL FOR SPAIN. THE MFA OFFICIAL SAID HE WAS CONVEYING THE FOREGOING FOLLOWING PERSONAL CONSULTATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE. HE CONFIDED FURTHER THAT
HE AND AN ASSOCIATE HAD JUST COMPLETED A REPORT ON THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION WHICH WAS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE CABINET MEETING ON MAY 3.

2. IN REPLY TO A QUERY, THE MFA OFFICIAL OPINED THAT THE RECENT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MADRID 02754 031625Z

STATEMENTS OF RETIRED LT. GEN. GARCIA REBULL AND EX-LABOR MINISTER

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

GIRON, TAKING A HARD LINE AGAINST THE LIBERALIZING INTENTIONS
OF THE ARIAS GOVERNMENT, HAD A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO THE EVENTS
IN PORTUGAL. THERE WAS HE STATED, A FEELING AMONG HIGH SPANISH
MILITARY THAT PORTUGAL WAS HEADED TOWARD A LEFTIST REGIME. THE
SPANISH SERVICES HAD DEFINITE INFORMATION THAT THE COUP IN PORTUGAL
HAD BEEN PREPARED BY YOUNGER OFFICERS AND THAT SPINOLA AND COSTA
GOMES HAD COME ABOARD ONLY IN THE LAST STAGES. SPINOLA HAD TAKEN A
STRAIGHT-BACKED ATTITUDE OF ALOOLNESS FROM THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE
MOVE AGAINST THE CAETANO GOVERNMENT BUT HAD ACCEDED TO THE REQUEST OF
THE REBEL ELEMENTS TO ASSUME ITS LEADERSHIP WHEN THE MOVE WAS UNDER
WAY. CAETANO HAD INSISTED THAT HE WOULD TURN OVER POWER ONLY TO
SPINOLA AND IN A DIGNIFIED MANNER AND IT WAS THUS THAT THE TRANSFER
TOOK PLACE.

3. THE MFA OFFICIAL SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE US
MILITARYIN SPAIN CONVEYED TO THEIR SPANISH MILITARY ACQUAINTANCES
THE US ASSESSMENTS OF THE LEADERS OF THE NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME.
IN REPLY TO THE DCM'S COMMENT THAT SPINOLA AND COSTA GOMES WERE
WELL KNOWN AS CONSERVATIVE MILITARY FIGURES, THE MFA OFFICIAL
INDICATED THE MFA KNEW THIS BUT OTHER SPANISH ELEMENTS WERE
LEERY OF THE INTENTIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE LEADERS AND THEIR ABILITY
TO CONTROL THE SITUATION. IN REPLY TO DCM'S SUGGESTION THAT
SPANISH DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY OFFICERS IN LISBON COULD PROVIDE
EVALUATIONS FROM CLOSE RANGE AND CONSULT WITH THE US OFFICIALS
IN LISBON, HE STATED THAT IT WOULD HAVE MORE IMPACT FOR US
IMPRESSIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE LEADERS TO BE CONVEYED DIRECTLY
BY US MILITARY TO THE SPANISH MILITARY IN MADRID.

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION
PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CLOSE US CONSULTATION WITH THE
SPANISH ON A MATTER OF DEEP CONCERN TO SPAIN, BECAUSE OF BOTH ITS
DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
RECEIVING CONTINUING ASSESSMENTS OF THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL
AS IT DEVELOPS AND GUIDANCE ON THE APPROACH WE SHOULD TAKE WITH
THE SPANISH IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION WITH THEM.
RIVERO

SECRET

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JUNTA, POLITICAL SITUATION, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MADRID02754
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740106-1090
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740576/aaaacqnf.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: MADRID 2671
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOS CONCERN RE: DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL
TAGS: PFOR, SP, PO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005